

AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, said the prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from said the prospective buyers, bidders and brokers in response to said the offerings, said the method comprising:
 - establishing one or more broker entitlement schema in an offering and bid collection computer system, said the broker entitlement schema being based on a contractual arrangement between one or more brokers, one or more traders, and manufacturer or service provider; each broker entitlement schema containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating contractually allowable items which may be offered for sale to each broker by said the trader;
 - transmitting by said the offering and bid collection computer system a first list of available items offered for sale by said the manufacturer or service provider from said the manufacturer or service supplier to a trader;
 - preparing by said the offering and bid collection computer system one or more entitled offerings through filtering said the first list of available items according to said the broker entitlement schema such that said the prepared entitled offerings include only information for one or more items to which each broker is allowed to purchase as defined by each broker's associated broker entitlement schema; and
 - subsequent to said the preparation of entitled offerings but prior to receiving any bids to purchase any offered items, presenting via a user interface of a computer network terminal or of a computer console said the entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers such that each broker may review entitled offerings containing information regarding items being offered for sale on which the broker is entitled to bid, but are not allowed to view information regarding items to which each broker is not entitled to purchase.
2. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of the providing of a broker entitlement profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing an item category parameter within said the entitlement definitions.

3. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the said step of providing of a broker entitlement profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing a broker location parameter within said the entitlement definitions.
4. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein the said step of preparing of one or more entitled offerings comprises removing items from said the available items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.
5. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein the said step of preparing of one or more entitled offers comprises removing items from said the available items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.
6. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the said step of presenting via a computer user interface said the entitled offerings to one or more brokers comprises presenting said the entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.
7. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the said step of receiving of one or more bids from said the prospective brokers via a computer network subsequent to the said step of presenting said the entitled offerings to said the brokers.
8. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 7 wherein the step of receiving one or more bids comprises receiving bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

9. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage memory medium for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, said the prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from said the prospective buyers and brokers in response to said the entitled offerings in a computer network server, said computer program code comprising:

a computer-readable storage memory medium suitable for encoding computer program code; and one or more computer programs encoded by said the computer-readable medium, when executed causing a computer network server to:

transmit from a manufacturer or service provider to a trader a first list of items available for purchase from said the manufacturer or service provider;

access at least one broker entitlement schema in a computer-readable record for one or more brokers, each broker entitlement schema containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating allowable items for which a broker may receive offers for items to purchase from said the manufacturer or service provider according to a contractual agreement;

prepare one or more entitled offerings through filtering said the first list of items against said the broker entitlement schema such that each resulting entitled offering only includes items for which each broker is allowed to receive offers to purchase, and excludes information regarding items to which each broker is not entitled to purchase, as defined by the prospective broker's entitlement definitions; and

subsequent to said step of the preparing entitled offers but prior to receipt of any bids from said the brokers to purchase said the available items, present via a computer user interface said the entitled offerings to one or more brokers such that each broker may review lists containing only items available for purchase from said the manufacturer or services on which the broker is entitled to bid.

10. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said the program code for accessing which accesses a broker entitlement schema with entitlement definitions comprises computer program code for providing which, when executed by a processor, provides an item category parameter within said the entitlement definitions.

11. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said the program code for accessing which accesses a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises program code for providing which, when executed by a processor, provides a broker location parameter within said the entitlement definitions.

12. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said the program code for preparing which prepares one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for removing which, when executed by a processor, removes items from said the first items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

13. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said the program code for preparing which prepares one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for removing which, when executed by a processor, removes items from said the first items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

14. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said the program code for presenting which presents via a computer user interface said the entitled offerings to one or more brokers comprises program code for presenting which, when executed by a processor, presents said the entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.

15. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 9 further comprising program code for receiving which receives one or more bids from said the prospective brokers via a computer network subsequent to said step of the presenting of said the entitled offerings.

16. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage memory medium as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said the program code for receiving which receives one or more bids comprises program code for receiving which, when executed by a processor, receives bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

17. (currently amended) An offering system in a computer network for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to brokers, buyers and bidders, hereinafter collectively referred to as "brokers", ~~said the~~ computer network enabling communications between ~~said the~~ offering system and broker consoles, ~~said the~~ offering system comprising:

a database ~~disposed in a computer system~~ containing one or more broker entitlement schema, each broker entitlement schema containing entitlement definitions according to a contractual relations between a manufacturer or service provider and a broker regarding items to which the broker is entitled to receive offers for purchase, ~~said the~~ database accessible and queriable by network application servers;

an entitled offering preparation server computing system [[for]] preparing entitled offerings through filtering lists of available items against broker entitlement definitions to produce entitled offerings including only items to which a broker is entitled to bid and excluding items to which a broker is not entitled to bid, and for storing entitled sales offerings in ~~said the~~ database; and

a network application server computing system [[for]] providing ~~said the~~ entitled offerings to broker console computers, ~~said the~~ providing of entitled offerings being performed subsequent to preparation of the entitled offerings but prior to receipt of a bid from ~~said the~~ broker.

18. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ network application server is an Internet server.

19. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ network application server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.

20. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ network application server is a secure Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTPS) server.

21. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ network application server is adapted for communications with broker console computers which are web browser devices.

22. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said the~~ entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker entitlement definitions including a broker location parameter.

23. (currently amended) The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker entitlement definitions including an item category parameter.